



CITY BURNING

Disastrous Fire Sweeps Hot Springs.

TWO MILLION DOLLARS

Entire Business Part of the City Swept Away in a Few Hours.

THREE PERSONS ARE KILLED

Block After Block of Business Houses, Hotels and Other Buildings Destroyed An Area of One Acre Burned in Five Hours.

Hot Springs, Ark., Feb. 25.—Fire swept the southern portion of this city early this morning causing losses variously estimated at from one to two millions of dollars and three deaths. Three charred corpses were found in the ruins but it was impossible to identify the victims. One body is supposed to be that of a female guest at the Grand Central hotel. The fire started at 3:20 o'clock this morning and in five hours burned over an area of one square mile.

Block after block of business houses, hotels and other buildings were swept away. Among the buildings destroyed were the Grand Central hotel, Lee house, Moody hotel, Plateau house, Columbia hotel, county court house, jail, First Methodist church, Jewish synagogue and twenty-five residences and stores. The fire started in the Grand Central hotel, and the origin is uncertain. All the guests had retired for the night and only the night clerk and watchman were on duty when the flames were discovered.

A strong north wind was blowing at the time and before the fire department could reach the scene the flames had spread rapidly to adjoining buildings. The firemen and police worked valiantly but their efforts did not check the flames and to add to the difficulty, the water pressure gave out at 5 o'clock. Bucket brigades were then formed, citizens and visitors alike volunteering their services. Many lodging houses and cheap restaurants were directly in the path of the fire and the occupants were hurriedly apprised of the danger. Many in their anxiety jumped from windows and sustained severe bruises and shocks. At 9 o'clock the fire had practically burned itself out and the work of rescuing was begun. In the ruins of the Grand Central hotel a charred female body was found.

The remains could not be identified, and as the hotel register and other records were burned, her name may never be known. In a lodging house two unknown male corpses were discovered.

FOOD ANALYSIS.

Laboratory for Pure Food to Be Established in Cities.

New York, Feb. 25.—An assistant to Dr. H. W. Wiley, chief of the bureau of Chemistry of the agricultural department, has arrived here to make an inspection of the bureau of food analysis at the appraiser's stores, preparatory to establishing similar laboratories in Boston, New Orleans and San Francisco. The New York bureau was established about six months ago as an experiment. Under the present system, importers receive their goods two or three days sooner than under the old system.

Gathered to His Father.

New York, Feb. 25.—The "Hairiest Lion in the world," which was presented to the New York zoological gardens in the Bronx in the name of his little daughter Margaret and at her request by Andrew Carnegie, has been gathered to his fathers. The majestic beast, which was one of the largest in captivity, is dead after an illness of three days. The pneumonia following

a cold he contracted in the early part of the week was the cause. Everything that science could do to save the animal was done and he took the medicines given him, but to no avail.

JAPS WIN FIGHT.

Japanese Capture a Hill and Defeat the Russians.

Tsankhetchen, Feb. 25.—The Japanese Boreneff hill today, which developed into an encounter of a most sanguinary nature. The Japanese were pressing forward with a bayonet charge and received a pyrolytin hand grenades or were blown up by buried mines. Japanese machine guns which took position to support the advance columns, were silenced for a time and beaten back. The Japanese came on with greater resolution, however, and the Russians finally yielded the hill in the face of greatly superior numbers.

Belated reports of the attack of the Russians at Tsankhetchen does not satisfy the curiosity of the public as to what is going on in Manchuria, but military authorities explain that the Japanese were probably only attempting to force in the Russian advanced position. The Associated Press dispatch from Tsankhetchen were interrupted at the interesting point and can not give losses or final results of the battle but it is evident that both sides lost heavily.

JAPAN DENIES IT.

Is Not Suing for Peace and Not Anxious for It.

Washington, Feb. 25.—Japan, through her minister at Washington absolutely denies all reports that she is suing for peace or that any act of the Mikado's representatives could be possibly so construed. The minister adds, that all peace talk was not created in Japan, but emanates from some other land. It is declared that Japan has made all arrangements to continue the war for another year.

COMMISSION BILL

Railway Commission Bill Passes Olympia House.

NOW GOES TO THE SENATE

The Bill Creates an Appointive Railway Commission of Three Members Giving Governor Power to Appoint and Remove.

Olympia, Feb. 25.—The house today passed the house substitute railway commission bill and it was ordered immediately transmitted to the senate. The bill as passed creates an appointive commission of three members, giving the governor absolute power to appoint and remove members.

It invests the commission with power to institute inquiries and fix the rates and establish the amount of demerage. It gives either party the right to appeal the courts from the findings of the commission and places the burden of proof on the railroad companies. It includes express companies in its provisions but exempts interurban electric roads. It fixes the penalty for violating any of its provisions at from \$150 to \$2000.

GAMES ARE CLOSED.

Officers Close All Gambling Games at Aberdeen.

Aberdeen, Feb. 25.—Scenting the fact that gambling was prevalent in the city, Mayor Lindstrom has ordered all the joints closed. An air of mystery surrounded conditions, some stoutly denying that the joints were in operation, others having good evidence that gambling was being carried on. Several councilmen went to the mayor with an affirmative story and the mayor promptly went to the saloonmen and gamblers and gave them strict orders for discontinuance of the evil.

Fought a Draw.

Philadelphia, Feb. 24.—Abe Attell and Eddie Hanlon, both of San Francisco, fought a six-round draw to-night.

ENGLAND WINS

North Sea Decision Goes Against Russia.

SOFT SOAP FOR LOSER

Report Implies Cruelty and Barbarianism on the Part of Admiral.

ALL ENGLAND IS REJOICING

The International Commission Presents Unanimous Report in Effect That Russia Was Not Justified in Firing on English Boats.

Paris, Feb. 25.—The international commission on the North sea incident finds that "the opening of fire by Admiral Rojestvensky was not justified. The decision was publicly announced today. It sets forth at length the circumstances and incidents and gives the opinion of the admirals on the various important points involved.

The decision says that delay of the Russian transport Kamchatka, following the breaking down of her machinery, was perhaps the cause of the incident. The commander of the Kamchatka signalled to Admiral Rojestvensky during the evening that he believed that he was attacked and gave orders for strict vigilance against the possible approach of the torpedo boats. The majority of the commission considers that Admiral Rojestvensky's orders were not excessive in time of war, particularly under the circumstances.

The commission, the decision says, recognize unanimously that the fishing fleet committee no hostile act and the majority of the commission being of the opinion that there were not, either among the fishing boats or in their vicinity, any torpedo boats, the opening of fire by Admiral Rojestvensky was not justified. The decision further says the Russian commissioner did not share in the latter opinion.

The commission is unanimous under the circumstances preceding and following the incident that there was such uncertainty concerning the danger to the squadron to warrant Admiral Rojestvensky in continuing his route. However, the majority regret that the admiral did not inform the neighboring powers of what had occurred.

The general impression prevails that the decision was in the nature of a compromise as the majority approved the British contention that no torpedo boats attacked Admiral Rojestvensky's squadron and that, therefore, his opening fire was not justified, and as the majority also approved the Russian contention that Admiral Rojestvensky acted according to his belief, even though mistaken.

London, Feb. 25.—The foreign office received the findings of the North sea commission with apparent equanimity, but declined to give out any official expression of opinion thereon. The findings were received in London with every sign of gratification, which was all the more marked because of the premature reports that the decision of the admirals had been of anti-British character. The whole report here is regarded as discrediting the Russian case. The definite report of the admirals that no torpedo boats were at the scene of the incident gives considerable satisfaction.

AFFAIRS UNSETTLED.

First Train on Vienna Railroad Arrives at Warsaw.

New York, Feb. 25.—As to reports of Japanese military activity in Northern Korea, the Herald's correspondent at Gensan cables:

"Transports are arriving daily with materials for fortifications which are being rapidly constructed on the Nakimhoff peninsula. Meanwhile the Japanese have announced the occupation

of three islands in the harbor entrance for military purposes.

"A Japanese fleet, escorting two transports with land fortifications and the workmen on board has appeared off the Nakimhoff peninsula, which forms Port Lazareff and commands the approaches to Gensan.

"Harbor fortifications are being rapidly constructed there.

"This peninsula offers an excellent sheltered naval base from which to control the sea of Japan. Military telegraph lines are being rapidly strung through the territory to the north, recently evacuated by Russian outposts."

RUSSIANS ROUTED.

Three Hundred Russians Routed After Sharp Engagement.

Nienchwang, Feb. 25, via Tientsin, 10 a. m.—It is announced that a cavalry detachment of 300 Russians was routed at Luchlawopp, 14 miles southwest of Hsinnington on the evening of February 23. The Russians scattered in the direction of Hsinnington.

Nienchwang is full of rumors of an impending battle upon the Hun river. The unusually warm weather will probably lead to active military operations. About three hundred Russians were again reported at a small village north of Nienchwang on the night of February 23, crossing the Liao river.

This morning foreigners residing here were warned not to venture on the west bank of the Liao river, owing to the activity of scouting parties on both sides. Russian agents clothed as Chinese are everywhere.

Fell From Window.

San Francisco, Feb. 25.—James H. Buchanan, aged 45, has met his death by falling from the second story window of his lodging house to the sidewalk, a distance of 40 feet. His neck was broken and skull fractured. The deceased had, it is said, two children residing at Seattle, Wash.

AFFAIRS UNSETTLED

Strike Throughout Russia Still Continues.

SCHOOLS PRACTICALLY QUIT

First Train on Vienna Railroad Arrived at Warsaw Bringing 300 Passengers, But Railway Men Are Joining the Strikers.

Warsaw, Feb. 25.—The first train for three days on the Vienna railroad arrived here today at noon, bringing 300 passengers. The trains are running tonight, although the lockout on the Vistula lines continue. Resumption of railway traffic, however, offset by a walkout of street railway employes this afternoon. The men demanded eight instead of sixteen hours as a day's work and an increase of 50 per cent in wages.

All the normal school pupils and those of Warsaw conservatory and Lodz Commercial college discontinued their studies today.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 25.—The street sales of the Russ were suspended today on account of an article of Friday reciting the conditions of Russia and asking whether they were an indication of the existence of the government.

According to well grounded reports, Minister of Finance Kokovsov will soon leave the emperor's cabinet and be succeeded by Mr. Roucaloff, a former assistant to President of the Council Witte and a strong supporter of that statesman. The Russ prints a definite statement that it has been decided not to call the zemsky sobor, but this is denied in other quarters.

Congratulates Commission.

Paris, Feb. 25.—The Figaro, commenting on the decision of the North sea commission congratulates the commissioners on their impartial verdict. Temps criticises the report as illogical, it recognizes the task as delicate and complicated by lack of precedent. The fact that it stopped two nations from going to war, however, is sufficient cause for the appreciation of arbitration.

ELECTS ADAMS

Governor Contest in Colorado Settled.

COMMITTEE TO REPORT

Investigation and Recount of the Votes.—Frauds Thrown Out by Committee.

ADAMS IS ELECTED BY 2,760

The Committee Granted Attorneys One Day More to Complete Briefs, But Argument Will Not Effect Result of the Findings.

Denver, Feb. 25.—The gubernatorial contest committee today granted the attorneys on both sides another day to prepare their briefs. The attorneys for Adams practically completed their brief tonight. In it they assert that conceding all the claims contended for by James H. Peabody, Adams still has a majority of 2670. This summary is the result of the investigation after all contentions on the part of Peabody are granted. According to the certified returns Adams had a majority of 9774. The loss to Adams if the experts' report is accepted is 7014, leaving Adams a net majority of 2760. This majority will be increased to 4479 if the experts' report on the returns of Los Animas and Huerfano counties are accepted, and will be further increased to 6955 if all Denver precincts which were counted, after throwing out all fraudulent votes. There is no possible chance for Adams' majority falling below 2670, if all concessions claimed by Peabody are granted, and there is now no doubt but Adams will be declared elected.

SING THE DOXOLOGY.

Portland is to Have an Opposition Telephone Service.

Portland, Feb. 25.—That Portland will have another telephone company seems now more probable than before, for at its meeting yesterday afternoon the street committee of the council recommended that the application of the Empire Construction Company, through Charles R. Sumner, for a telephone franchise be referred to the executive board for an adjustment of rates for the franchise.

This action of the committee proves that the members are kindly disposed toward the new company and will support the proposition of allowing it a franchise. Mr. Sumner offered to place \$50,000 in a local bank as an assurance of good faith on the part of his company and to give bonds in a reliable surety company at a later date.

INAUGURATION DAY.

Preparations Complete for the Inauguration of Roosevelt.

Washington, Feb. 25.—With the inauguration of President Roosevelt only one week distant, the members of the inaugural committee have ceased their plans and are awaiting what hopes to be the successful culmination of their efforts. Unusually large attendance of inaugural visitors is expected. The entire pension bureau building has been placed in the hands of the inaugural hall committee, and this afternoon the work of decorating is already under way.

LAYING TRACK TO CONDON.

New Railroad Nearing Completion—Will Cause Land Development.

Arlington, Ore., Feb. 25.—Work on the Condon road is nearing completion. Tracklaying was commenced this week and in a few days several additional crews are to be put on at this work, to hasten construction as rapidly as possible. Since beginning of operations last October land values have advanced

almost 50 per cent in the territory to be reached. Completion of the railroad and opening of the Columbia will make Gilliam one of the best counties in the state.

The Condon road will open up some of the finest wheat country in the state only a fraction of which has been under cultivation, because of lack of transportation facilities. Stockraisers who have had to drive in from Fossil, 65 miles away, and other points, will be equally benefited.

The Sergius Plot.

Moscow, Feb. 25.—The police report that they are satisfied that there existed a plot of considerable proportions against Grand Duke Sergius, but are baffled in tracing it out. Many arrests of persons believed to know something of the plot have been made, but only against the assassin is there any really tangible evidence.

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Almond Trees in Bloom.

Grants Pass, Ore., Feb. 25.—Almond trees are in bloom in Grants Pass, the warm weather of the past month having brought them out several weeks earlier than usual. Peach trees are also ready to burst into bloom, and will be in full blossom within the next ten days. The bloom is very heavy on the almond trees, and if not nipped by late frosts, the crop of almonds from Southern Oregon will be good this season.

Boutwell is Ill.

Boston, Feb. 25.—Former Governor Boutwell is reported critically ill with pneumonia and there are very little hopes of his recovery.

HONORING MEMBERS

Time of Congress Devoted to Marble Statues.

LITTLE BUSINESS TRANSACTED

House Divides Its Time Between Legislation and Patriotic Exercises—Appropriation Bill Considered But No Action Taken.

Washington, Feb. 25.—The house today divided its time between legislation and patriotic exercises. An hour and a half was spent in passing minor bills and about the same time devoted to consideration of the sundry civil appropriation bill, without reaching any conclusion. Legislation then gave way to speeches in which several members participated in honoring the memory of Houston and Austin when the marble statues of each, which had been placed in statutory hall by the state of Texas, were formally accepted. The house will meet tomorrow to honor the late Representative Croft of South Carolina.

The senate today heard concluding arguments of both sides in the Swayne impeachment case. Ex-Senator Thurston spoke for Swayne. After a discussion of about two hours in secret session, an order was made for a vote Monday morning at 10 o'clock. Voting will be on the articles separately and continue until all are passed upon.

The senate at last granted the request of the houses for a conference on the statehood bill and also conferees on the Panama canal zone government bill. The naval appropriation bill was considered in part. Hale and Gorman both condemned the rapid increase in the navy.

Gorky Not Released.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 24.—The reported release of Maxim Gorky was premature, but it is expected that he will be set at liberty in a day or two. He is suffering from the effects of confinement, and authorities regard the case against him not sufficiently strong to demand retention in the fortress.